AF 112—PART I
APPROVED JUNE 1948

~~SECRET~~ (CLASSIFICATION)

AF633245

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
Japan	IR 960-54	AF633245

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

Information on a Probable U.S. Air Force Officer Detained in Soviet Russia

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)	
MAGADAN (5935N/15042E) Area, Soviet Russia	6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron	
DATE OF REPORT	**DATE OF INFORMATION**	**EVALUATION**
27 July 1954	March 1952	C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer)	**SOURCE**	
W. T. Babel, 1st Lt., USAF	Confidential (See Summary)	

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

USAF BAIR PART FOUR 2E10

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. This report, prepared by the Liaison Section, 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, provides information on a probable U.S. Air Force Officer detained in Soviet Russia.

2. Information contained in this report is the result of an interrogation of a 1954 Japanese repatriate from the USSR, conducted by [redacted], (b)(1)3.4(b)(1)

1R (2 Incl)
1Cy

APPROVED:

Bruce A Hedlund 1/C USAF

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IAW E.O. 12812, E.O. 12958,
50 USC 435 Note
Date: 3/11/98 Initials: RD

DOCUMENTS
BRANCH
10

NM

2 INCLS.
1. Chart of Specific Identification Features
2. Identification Photograph

Request photographs from ACIC/PRSD
Order by: 2218.909AF

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NOT RELEASEABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO FOREIGN NATIONALS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

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DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

INFORMATION ON A PROBABLE U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER DETAINED IN SOVIET RUSSIA:

SOURCE: (b)(1) 3.4 (b)(1)

1. ——— a Japanese national who was recently repatriated from Soviet Russia. He is presently employed by the SATO Iron Works Company, 24-1, Taihei-machi, Sumida-ku, Tokyo-to.

OBSERVATION:

2. Observation was made by Source around March 1952 (Source stated that it was still snowing at this time) at the NARIOBERUGU (phonetic) Central Hospital in the Northern District of MAGADAN area in Soviet Russia. Source heard that there was an American hospitalized at the above hospital. Since Source himself was hospitalized in this hospital at one time, he had many acquaintances here and, therefore, went to observe the American for himself. Source met the American in Room #2, First Medical Section of this hospital and conversed with him for approximately 20 minutes.

IDENTIFICATION DATA: (b)(1) 3.4 (b)(1)

3. Source heard from a hospital attendant called ——— (phonetic) that the American was a Caucasian airman who held the rank of a "kapitan" (captain) and had crashed in the vicinity of KAMCHATKA. During the conversation he stated "I am going back alive and fight the Russians to the finish. Also, I cannot accept the sentence of being a spy. The sentence of 15 years based on Item 6 of Article 58 is unjust", or words to that effect. He further stated that he was wounded about his hips but the spital orderly said that he had a lung disease. He was dressed in a white hospital iform at this time. Name of the American was not known.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

4. The American was of the male sex and appeared to be about 28 years old. He stood about 190 cm high and his hair which was blond was shaved, convict-style. His face was oval-shaped with the forehead protruding, and the middle portion of his face, from eyebrows to tip of nose, was longer than the upper and lower portions of his face. The color of his face was blue (probably pallid). He had deep-set eyes which were blue in color and his eyebrows were thick and straight and tapered toward the outside ends. The shape and protrusion of his nose were both normal (refer to No. 83 and No. 72 of Incl #1 for shape and protrusion of nose). The size of his mouth was normal and his upper lip appeared thinner and longer than his lower lip. The shape and protrusion of his jaw were normal (refer to No. 102 and No. 110 of Incl #1 for shape and protrusion of jaw). His cheekbones appeared to be protruded which was probably due to his illness. The width of his shoulders was average (refer to No. 132 of Incl #1 for width of shoulders). While conversing, he had a habit of batting his eyes and sticking out his lower lip. Other physical features and unusual characteristics are unknown.

IDENTIFICATION PHOTOGRAPH:

5. Primary Source screened eleven photographs in a profile parle kit and ~~lected the one (Incl #2) as resembling the individual he observed. The patient considerably thinner around the cheeks than is shown in the photograph however.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER: (b)(1) 3.4 (b)(1)

6. Information in this report was obtained by an employee of a ———

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT (3)

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
6004th Air Intel Sv Sq (b)(1) 3.4(b)(1)	IR 960-54	

[redacted] from a [redacted] primary source who actually observed the American.

7. Incl #2 is a photograph of 1st Lt. Robert E. Stalnaker, AO 761337, who was a crew member aboard the RB-50 aircraft which was downed in the Sea of Japan on 29 July 1953. Source of this report made his observation around March 1952, and also made the statement that he was sure of the time of observation (March 52) within a months time. Therefore, Source could not have observed 1st Lt. Stalnaker at the time and place he designated. In June 1953, Source had left the Magadan area and had been transferred to an internment camp in Khabarovsk.

8. Despite the above discrepancy, this report is being forwarded.

W. T. BABEL
1st Lt., USAF
OIC, Liaison Section

[redacted]

B-50 CASE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

Having received from Miss Virginia James, EE, Air Intelligence Report IR-960-54 on June 22, 1955, I called the Air Force Casualty Office of Colonel Springfield and ultimately talked with Major Buck. Major Buck said that her office was aware of this report; that it had dropped the matter even though the description, while not applicable to Stalnaker of the B-50 crew, looked like that of a Captain Bush who was a member of the crew of the B-29 which had been reported missing since June 1952. The reason this was dropped was that the Japanese national described his man as having blue eyes, whereas the Air Force's record showed Bush had brown eyes. I pointed out to Major Buck that the word "blue" might be a mis-translation from the Japanese since the same report described the Japanese national as saying that the American had blue skin. It might mean that he used the word blue to mean some other color - perhaps brown (I did not mention to her then but did subsequently to others that if the Japanese national spoke English as was indicated he might pronounce L's as though they were R's and there might easily be a confusion between brown and blue as well). I said it seemed to me that she ought to get hold of a member of the squadron or relatives and check further on the Bush identification based on the characteristics ascribed by the Japanese national to the aviator he saw.

The next day, June 23, Captain John Roche called on me and confirmed that the description might not entirely fit Stalnaker of the B-50.

On June 29th I was called by Air Force Casualty, a Mr. Oberton. He said that the commanding officer of Bush's squadron was a Colonel now stationed in the Pentagon and that he was not aware of such a peculiarity of speech as the Japanese national described of Bush. I asked him to communicate with the Navy upon the ground that in any case the Navy might have lost a plane in that area, even if the Air Force didn't, and thay might have had a crew member with the characteristics described.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 937302
By [illegible] NARA, Date 5/1/13

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[redacted]

Subsequently, I talked on the telephone with a Commander Bird, Casualty Branch of the Navy (Code 131 Ext. 55058). He told me that Mrs. Reeder (Ext. 42746) or Mrs. Beall (Ext. 42236) would be handling the matter.

Subsequently, on July 5th, Mrs. Beall called me and said that while there were some pictures of the crew members, the Navy lacked other pictures of the crew of the aircraft lost during the 1950 Korean fighting (as I called attention to that incident as shown by the Department's records). She asked whether I had any objection to the Navy sending an innocent and innocuous inquiry to relatives for photographs where pictures are not available. I said that I did not have any objection so long as she did not indicate there was any interest on the part of the Department of State or that there was a possibility that the man was still alive. She said that the crew members of the 1950 incident were carried as dead and that she would observe my condition by making the communication casual.

L:L/K:SKlaus:mfd
7-7-55